

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended as to form and to include the recitations of allowable claim 2. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

New independent claim 9 is based on original claim 1, amended as to form, including the further recitations of claim 3. New claims 10-15 depend from independent claim 9 and are based on originally filed claims. New independent claim 16 is based on claim 1, amended as to form, and including recitations taken from allowable claim 2, those recitations being indicated to render claim 2 allowable. New dependent claims 17-21 are based on originally filed claims.

The Official Action objected to the specification. Responsively, the specification has been amended to include section headings.

There are no other formal matters outstanding.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Official Action indicated that claims 2-4 are directed to allowable subject matter.

In view of the recitations of claim 2 having been incorporated in claim 1, allowance of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2003
Amendment dated October 17, 2003
Docket No. 1501-1122

In view of new claim 16 being based on original claim 1 and the recitations of claim 2 mentioned on page 4 of the Official Action, allowance of claim 16 and the claims depending therefrom, is also respectfully requested.

Further, applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 9. This claim is believed to be both proper as to form and patentable. Note that claim 10 corresponds to original claim 4 and that claim 11 corresponds to allowable claim 2. Claims 12-15 correspond respectively to original claims 5-8.

In view of the above, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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